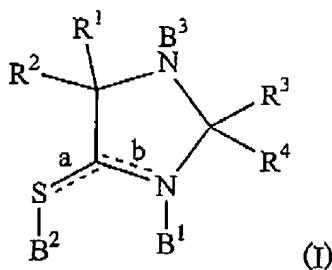


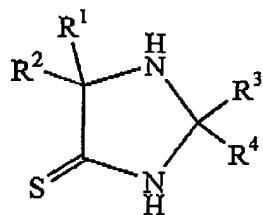
LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for making a compound of formula (I)



wherein bonds a and b are single or double bonds, provided that one of a and b is a single bond and the other is a double bond; one of B<sup>1</sup> and B<sup>2</sup> is -CHR<sup>5</sup>-CHR<sup>6</sup>-C(Y)ZR<sup>7</sup> or hydrogen and the other is absent; B<sup>3</sup> is -C(W)NHR<sup>8</sup> or hydrogen; provided that one of B<sup>1</sup>, B<sup>2</sup> and B<sup>3</sup> is not hydrogen; R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl; or R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup>, or R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup>, combine with the carbon atom to which they are attached to form an alkyl or alkenyl ring; provided that at least three of R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl; Y and W are is O or S; Z is O, S or NR<sup>9</sup>; R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl; R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> are independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl; and R<sup>8</sup> is alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl;

said method comprising adding to an imidazolidinethione having formula



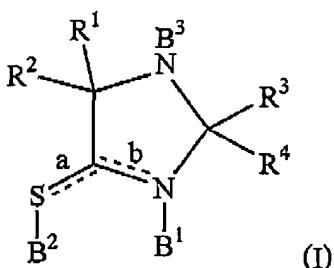
one of (i)  $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CHR}^6\text{-C(Y)ZR}^7$ ; and (ii)  $\text{R}^8\text{N-C-W CHR}^5=\text{CR}^6\text{-C(Y)ZR}^7$  to form a reaction mixture; wherein the reaction mixture is substantially free of solvent.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 in which  $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CHR}^6\text{-C(O)OR}^7$   $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CR}^6\text{-C(O)OR}^7$  is added to the imidazolidinethione;  $\text{R}^5$  is hydrogen; and  $\text{R}^6$  is hydrogen or methyl.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising an alkali metal carbonate in an amount less than 10 mole % relative to  $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CHR}^6\text{-C(O)OR}^7$   $\text{CHR}^5=\text{CR}^6\text{-C(O)OR}^7$ .

Claim 4 has been canceled.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for making a compound of formula (I)

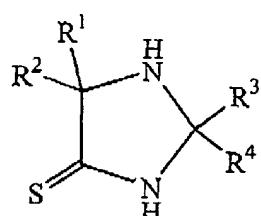


wherein bonds a and b are single or double bonds, provided that one of a and b is a single bond and the other is a double bond; one of  $\text{B}^1$  and  $\text{B}^2$  is  $-\text{CHR}^5\text{-CHR}^6\text{-C(Y)ZR}^7$ ,  $\text{CR}^{10}\text{R}^{11}\text{-NHR}^{12}$  or hydrogen and the other is absent;  $\text{B}^3$  is  $-\text{C(W)NHR}^8$  or hydrogen; provided that one of  $\text{B}^1$ ,  $\text{B}^2$  and  $\text{B}^3$  is not hydrogen;  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  are independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl; or  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$ , or  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$ , combine with the carbon atom to which they are attached to form an alkyl or alkenyl ring; provided that at least three of  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  are alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl;  $\text{Y}$  and  $\text{W}$  are is O or S;  $\text{Z}$  is O, S or  $\text{NR}^9$ ;  $\text{R}^5$  is hydrogen or  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$  alkyl;  $\text{R}^6$  is hydrogen or  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$  alkyl;  $\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{R}^{10}$  and  $\text{R}^{11}$  are independently

hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl; and R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> independently are alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl;

said method comprising steps of:

(a) preparing an imidazolidinethione having formula



by combining a cyanide source, a sulfide salt, and at least one ketone or aldehyde;

and (b) adding to the imidazolidinethione, without isolation of the imidazolidinethione, one of (i) CHR<sup>5</sup>=CHR<sup>6</sup>-C(O)OR<sup>7</sup>; (ii) R<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>C=O and R<sup>12</sup>NH<sub>2</sub>; (iii) R<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>C-NR<sup>12</sup>; and (iv) R<sup>8</sup>N=C-W CHR<sup>5</sup>=CR<sup>6</sup>-C(O)OR<sup>7</sup>.

Claim 6 has been canceled.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 in which CHR<sup>5</sup>=CHR<sup>6</sup>-C(O)OR<sup>7</sup> CHR<sup>5</sup>=CR<sup>6</sup>-C(O)OR<sup>7</sup> is added to the imidazolidinethione; R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen; and R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen or methyl.

Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled.